

PREFACE

The primary mission of government in an emergency is to protect the lives and property of its citizens. Regardless of how well state and federal governments are organized to provide assistance, the unpredictable nature of hurricanes and the time and space factors involved dictate that the local jurisdiction must be prepared to cope with the initial impact of a hurricane on its own.

Recognizing that routine emergency services will, by their nature, be inadequate to cope with the effects of a hurricane, it is the duty of local government to provide for the emergency expansion of its survival capabilities within the limits of available resources.

The Commonwealth of Virginia Hurricane Emergency Response Plan is an Incident Annex to the Commonwealth of Virginia Emergency Operations Plan (COVEOP) and is published as Volume 5 of the COVEOP. It has been developed to provide a sound basis for hurricane-oriented emergency programs and to establish the organizational and operational concepts and procedures designed to minimize the loss of life and property and to expedite the restoration of essential services following a major hurricane.

In the preparation of this plan, emergency duties and responsibilities have been assigned, to the extent possible, to agencies having the same or similar responsibilities in the COVEOP, Basic Plan. Where necessary, agencies should develop specific standing operating procedures (SOPs) explaining what tasks need to be performed and how they will be accomplished in an emergency situation.

This incident annex has been developed in consonance with cited references and authorities. Specific details and background from these sources are usually referenced rather than included. Agencies using this annex should, therefore, become familiar with the provisions of the Emergency Services and Disaster Laws and other volumes of the COVEOP, as well as this annex.

It is well understood that being prepared to recover from the effects of a hurricane requires constant development and revision of emergency procedures, training of staff and auxiliary personnel, and exercises to test this volume of the COVEOP. This process and the results of actual emergency response operations will allow refining and distillation of this incident annex to the COVEOP and its associated SOPs and supporting plans so that we are as well prepared as possible to cope with hurricane effects.